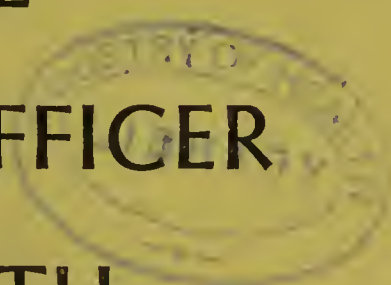


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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARLINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



1955

DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955 — 56

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Vice-Chairman

COUNCILLOR W. A. LEE, O.B.E.

Councillors

S. Allport	N. H. Nicholson
Mrs. M. Burlinson	(Elected May, 1955)
(Elected May, 1955)	Miss A. Palmer
G. H. Callender	W. Robinson
T. A. Cooper	E. J. Stokes
K. Coates	T. H. Summerson, J.P.
(Elected 4.10.55)	H. N. Shafto
H. J. Dent, J.P.	J. H. Shaw
J. K. Dods	W. S. Scott
J. R. Dixon	J. E. Stobbs
*H. Hutchinson	K. V. Shaw
P. J. Hallett	W. Thompson
H. S. Johnson	(Lost seat May, 1955)
(Elected May, 1955)	J. Thompson
G. H. Myers	(Lost seat May, 1955)
R. J. Mounsey, J.P.	*D. Vickers, J.P.
H. H. Miller	(Elected May, 1955)
N. Milburn	M. E. Walker
(Elected May, 1955)	G. Williams
*A. G. Newell, J.P.	(Elected May, 1955, resigned 1.9.55)
T. N. Naisby	

*Members of No. 11 Area Health Sub-Committee

Clerk to the Council

J. PATTINSON



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ANNUAL REPORT, 1955

DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the 74th annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1955.

The purpose of this introductory letter is to summarize the contents of the report and to draw attention to points of special interest.

VITAL STATISTICS

The comparability factors have been used in estimating the crude birth and death rates—births 0.91, deaths 1.23.

The live birth rate, the still birth rate and the infantile mortality rate compare favourably with that of the country as a whole. There was an increase of 30 in the number of live births and a decrease of 1 in the number of still births as compared with last year and no change in the number of infant deaths. These figures give a much higher live birth rate, and smaller still birth and infantile mortality rates than those of England and Wales.

The same can not be said for the general death rate. There was an increase of 54 deaths as compared with 1954 and despite the fact that the population has increased from 16,230 to 17,910 this gives a rate higher than that of last year and higher than that of England and Wales. There was a big increase in deaths from tuberculosis but special mention is made of this later. The main causes of death were diseases of the heart and arteries which accounted for slightly over 51% of total deaths (53.6% in 1954) and malignant diseases which accounted for 14.3% of deaths (15% in 1954). Since January, 1953, deaths occurring in hospitals classified as hospitals for the chronic sick are allocated to the district in which the hospitals are situated. It may be of interest that 35 such deaths of persons normally not residents of your district occurred—9 due to tuberculosis and 26 due to other causes, the latter including 1 due to cancer of the lung.

For the 8th year in succession there were no maternal deaths.

Infectious Diseases

Notifications were almost trebled as compared with the previous year. This fact was accounted for by an epidemic of measles and an outbreak of dysentery. The incidence of measles was greater in the country generally than during the previous year.

An outbreak of dysentery occurred in the school at Heighington. Not only school children but teachers and school meal attendants were affected as cases or carriers. A considerable amount of work was involved as in a number of instances contacts were connected with the handling of food.

Three cases of food poisoning occurred during the year. One was due to *Salmonella* Heidelberg and as the affected person was a food handler he and his wife who became temporarily a carrier were prohibited from following their occupation until the carrier state cleared. The remaining two cases were diagnosed on clinical grounds as due to staphylococcal intoxication but confirmation of this was not possible as none of the suspected food was available for bacteriological examination.

No cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria, or enteric fever were notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation

471 children were immunised and 510 received reinforcing doses as compared with 242 and 44 the previous year. The increase was due to an immunisation campaign carried out in the spring of 1955.

Tuberculosis

The number of notifications was one less than in 1954.

Deaths from tuberculosis showed a big increase as compared with previous years (see table on page 18) giving a rate much higher than that of the country, but these figures are misleading. 9 of the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were of persons normally resident in other districts but as the hospital concerned was classified as being a hospital for the chronic sick the deaths were allocated to your district. The classification of this hospital has now been altered.

The true number of deaths was 4 (2 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) giving a rate of 0.2 per 1,000 of the population instead of 0.7. This compares with 0.15 for England and Wales.

Laboratory Work

91 specimens were sent for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water

In previous reports I commented on the unsatisfactory results of bacteriological examination of water supplied by the Durham County Water Board. I am pleased that the quality was satisfactory in 1955. 68 samples were examined bacteriologically of which 58 were "highly satisfactory" and 8 were "satisfactory". Chemical analyses of three samples confirmed that the water was wholesome.

The position as regards quantity was not so satisfactory but this was, to a large extent, due to the general shortage of water resulting from the dry summer.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Many of the villages in the rural district require works of sewerage and sewage disposal. On reading the part of the report submitted by

the Surveyor it is obvious that much remains to be done before it can be said that methods of sewage disposal are satisfactory throughout the district.

I hope that as soon as economic pressure is eased an early approach will be made to the Ministry for approval of the schemes referred to in the body of the report.

Housing

The completion of the housing survey made it possible to assess the general standard of housing in your district, although it must be realised that the condition of properties does not remain static with the result that such a survey in time becomes out of date. The survey indicated that approximately 20% of the houses required works of major repair or improvement. Of these about $2\frac{1}{4}$ % were scheduled for demolition.

It appears to me from a scrutiny of the housing application list and because of the need to replace demolished houses, that it will be necessary for the Council to continue to build at the present rate for some years.

I am pleased to see that during the past year 25 applications were approved for improvement grants, a big increase over previous years.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The district is adequately covered by the four licensed slaughter-houses. Included in the body of the report is a table giving details of meat inspection. Inspection of food premises and meat inspection form an important and large part of the Sanitary Inspector's work, and in my opinion even more time will have to be spent on this in the future.

In conclusion I would express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Collins and to all members of the staff for their co-operation and assistance.

May I acknowledge the courtesy extended to me by the Council and the help given to me by the Clerk to the Council and his staff.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. W. Rodgers.

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND STAFF
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health
M. W. RODGERS, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor
J. D. COLLINS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector
J. F. ELLISON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.
(Resigned 30th April, 1955.)

D. G. WARDE, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Certified Food and Meat Inspector.
(Appointed 1st June, 1955)

Engineering Assistants
J. CUTHBERTSON E. STEELE

Sewage Works Manager
J. BLACK

Building Inspector
A. G. OXBOROUGH

Chief Clerk and General Assistant
F. H. HURWORTH

Clerical Assistant
G. V. WORTHY

Pupil Sanitary Inspector
P. J. JEMMESON

Shorthand Typists
MRS. P. LAMBELL MRS. M. H. METCALFE

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Rural District in acres	45,414
Resident population (including forces stationed in the area)	17,910
Total number of houses at 31st December, 1955 (including 134 R.A.F. Married Quarters) ..	5,450
Number of inhabited houses (excluding R.A.F. Married Quarters at 1st April, 1955) ..	5,029
Rateable value at 1st April, 1955	£122,375
Sum represented by a penny rate	£509 17s. 11d.
General Rate (excluding additional items and special rates in certain parishes) made in respect of the financial year ending 31st March, 1956 ..	£1

Social Conditions and Employment

The rural district almost completely surrounds the County Borough of Darlington. There are approximately nine roads radiating from the town to the various villages ; each of these routes has a bus service so that no part of the area is more than about twenty minutes bus run from the Council's offices in Darlington.

In the northern part of the district a Trading Estate has developed since the war and in connection with this a new town has been in course of erection since 1948.

In the southern part of the area the Royal Air Force are permanently established and married quarters have been erected to accommodate some of the personnel. There are brickworks at Neasham and Hurworth.

The rest of the district is primarily agricultural with scattered sand and gravel quarries.

Newton Aycliffe

During the year under review, the new town of Newton Aycliffe has continued to expand rapidly. 439 houses were completed and occupied, bringing the total at the 31st December, 1955 to 2,324, with a population of approximately 7,500. 210 houses were under construction at that date and within the next six months it is expected that contracts will be let for a further 335 houses. The construction of roads and sewers has continued to be carried out in advance of the building of houses.

Having completed the construction of a railway bridge over St. Cuthbert's Way, which links the new town with the Aycliffe Trading Estate, the final section of the roadworks was completed and the road opened to through traffic in May, 1955.

Two schools for infants and juniors have been completed by the Durham Education Committee and work is proceeding on the erection of a secondary modern school for 480 children on a site adjacent to Central Avenue. It is anticipated that this school will be ready for use in September, 1956, following which the building of a similar school will be commenced on the same site. The Education Committee continue to use four flats in Bede Crescent as an overflow for children from the Sugar Hill Infants' School. The Aycliffe Development Corporation is in negotiation with the Education Committee for the sale of 6 acres of land to the northern end of Central Avenue for an additional two form entry junior school, the construction of which is expected to commence in the County's 1956/57 school building programme.

In July, 1955, the Parish Church and vicarage were completed on a site adjacent to the town centre, and in December a church hall, being the first phase of the Methodist Church buildings in Shafto Way, was dedicated.

"The Oak Tree Inn," the town's second public house, was completed in July, 1955, on a site adjacent to the Ward "A" shops in Neville Parade; and in December, work was started on a Workingmen's Club at the junction of Sheraton Road.

A petrol filling and service station in Shafto Way has been built and work has commenced on the first stage of shops in Beveridge Way in the town centre. The first of these shops, which are being built by private enterprise is expected to be ready for occupation in September, 1956.

Aycliffe Trading Estate

The number of persons employed on the trading estate totals 3,685 of which 2,454 are males. These figures take no account of the Durham County Police stationed on the estate and as a matter of interest, the Police employ 219 persons, 84 of whom are civilians.

The number of firms operating on the estate is 80 and in addition there are 8 ministerial departments with buildings occupied for storage purposes. During the period under review only one or two storage buildings vacated by the Ministry of Works were available for allocation and as a result only three small firms have been able to obtain premises. Existing firms, however, continue to expand and there were three further extensions completed and occupied during the year, while a further eight have extensions in the planning stage.

Work has been completed on the construction of St. Cuthbert's Way which links the trading estate with the new town and a new debarment to the A.1 road.

The canteen on Avenue "D" continued to give a satisfactory meals service. The Estate Company removed trade refuse from the factories and utilised the Council's tip at Brafferton.

No. 4 Flying Training School at Middleton-St.-George

The annual hygiene report has been received from the Senior Medical Officer of this establishment and it is noted that the health

of the station has been good throughout the year.

There are at present 19 Officers married quarters and 115 airmans married quarters, an increase of 9 of the former and 11 of the latter since the previous year. In addition 1 building was converted into officers married quarters.

Employment

A high level of employment in agriculture and other industries was maintained in the district during 1955. The demand for skilled workers, particularly in building and civil engineering and general engineering persisted during the year and there was an opportunity for steady employment for physically fit unskilled workers.

On the Aycliffe Trading Estate employment was provided for male and female workers in a wide range of industries including constructional engineering, light engineering, chemicals, furniture making, plastic processing and paint manufacture.

Unemployment in the area during the year was negligible.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births in the district was 416 as against 386 the previous year.

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	227	177	404
Illegitimate	..	..	..	5	7	12
						<hr/> 416

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population—21.14.

The rate for England and Wales was—15.0.

Still Births				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	3	3	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
						<hr/> 6

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population—0.33.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population for England and Wales was 0.35.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births—14.22.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births for England and Wales—23.20.

The total Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population is 23.56.

Maternal Mortality Nil.

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year.

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	5	5	10
Illegitimate ..	..	..	..	—	—	—
						<hr/> 10

Infantile Mortality Rate

Death rate of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births—24.04

Death rate of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births—24.75.

Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—nil.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths in two age groups under 1 month (neo-natal deaths) and 1 month to 1 year

NEO-NATAL DEATHS				Male	Female
Prematurity	..	..	..	1	2
Pneumonia (with Prematurity)	..	..	..	2	—
Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	1	1
				<hr/> 4	<hr/> 3
AGE GROUP 1 MONTH TO 1 YEAR					
Acute overwhelming infection ..	..	..	..	1	1
Meningococcal Septicaemia ..	..	..	..	—	1
				<hr/> 1	<hr/> 2

Deaths and Death Rate	Male	Female	Total
	103	91	194
Death rate per 1,000 of the population—13.3.			
Rate for England and Wales—11.7.			

Table Showing Causes of Death

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	11	1
Tuberculosis (Other)	—	3
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm Lung	5	1
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	—	3
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	—	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	20
Coronary disease, Angina	16	7
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	8	17
Other circulatory disease	6	6
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	6	5
Bronchitis	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, Child Birth and Abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1
All other Accidents	2	1
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	Totals .. 103	91

Age Groups	Under 1	1-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90	Over 90
Deaths	10	3	4	6	9	11	32	32	51	32	2

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM

The following table gives the deaths from Malignant Neoplasm in age groups and localisation.

Localisation		20 and under 30	30 and under 40	40 and under 50	50 and under 60	60 and under 70	70 and under 80	80 and under 90	Total	
		M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
Stomach	..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Lungs	..	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	5	1
Breast	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3
Uterus	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ovary	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Thyroid	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Larynx	..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Intestine	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pancreas	..	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	2	2
Rectum	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Bladder	..	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1
Other Sites	..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		1	3	2	3	2	5	1	17	11

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR RECENT YEARS
AS COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES

Estimated Population of Darl'ton R.D.C.	Years	GENERAL DEATH RATE			INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE			LIVE BIRTH RATE		
		Darl'ton R.D.C.		England and Wales Rate	Darl'ton R.D.C.		England and Wales Rate	Darl'ton R.D.C.		England and Wales Rate
		No. of Deaths	Rate		No. of Deaths	Rate		No. of Births	Rate	
9,570	1941	106	11.07	12.9	11	76.2	59	143	14.9	14.2
9,570	1942	95	10.06	11.6	2	12.9	49	154	16.32	14
9,189	1943	111	12.07	12.1	9	51.84	49	154	16.75	16.5
9,216	1944	111	12.04	11.6	9	45	46	196	21.26	17.6
8,910	1945	122	13.69	11.4	7	45	46	155	17.39	16.1
9,382	1946	114	12.15	11.5	7	46	43	152	16.20	19.1
9,512	1947	115	12.09	12	8	41.88	41	191	20.08	20.5
10,030	1948	95	9.47	10.8	6	34.48	34	174	17.35	17.9
10,270	1949	98	9.5	11.7	7	37.6	32	186	18.1	16.7
10,650	1950	146	13.7	11.6	10	54.35	29.8	184	17.28	15.8
12,040	1951	127	10.55	12.5	8	38.83	29.6	206	17.1	15.5
13,070	1952	117	8.95	11.3	10	47.62	27.6	210	16.07	15.3
14,600	1953	150	10.99	11.4	8	24.02	26.8	333	20.98	15.5
16,230	1954	140	10.6	11.3	10	25.91	25.5	386	21.6	15.2
17,910	1955	194	13.3	11.7	10	24.04	24.9	416	21.14	15

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for Infectious Disease, 1955

	Darlington R.D.C.	England and Wales
	Rate per 1,000 Home population	
BIRTHS :		
Live	21.14	15
Still	(0.33 (14.2 (a))	(0.35 (23.2 (a))
DEATHS :		
All causes	13.3	11.7
Whooping Cough	—	0.00
Diphtheria	—	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.84	0.15
Influenza	0.1	0.07
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis	—	0.005
Pneumonia	0.6	0.5
NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED) :		
Typhoid	—	0.00
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	0.02
Meningoccal Infection	—	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0.9	0.73
Whooping Cough	2.1	1.8
Diphtheria	—	0.00
Erysipelas	—	0.1
Small Pox	—	—
Measles	17.9	15.6
Pneumonia	0.2	0.6
Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis) :		
Paralytic	—	0.08
Non-Paralytic	—	0.06
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	17.8 (a)
Dysentery	3.4	0.8
Tuberculosis : Respiratory	0.56	0.77
Other	—	0.1
Rate per 1,000 live births		
Deaths under 1 year of age	24.04	24.9
Neo-natal Mortality	16.8	17.3
Death from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	—	0.75
Rate per 1,000 total births (i.e. live and still)		
MATERNAL MORTALITY :		
Maternal causes excluding Abortion	—	0.54
Due to abortion	—	0.10
Total Maternal Mortality	—	0.64

(a) per 1,000 total births

Admissions to Isolation Hospital during 1955

The total number of cases admitted to Isolation Hospital was 20 as against 13 for 1954.

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	3
Tuberculosis :	Respiratory	..	..	..	10	
	Meninges and CNS	..	..	2		
	Other forms	..	..	1		
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	3	
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1	

LABORATORY WORK

Bacteriological Examinations

FAECES

Number of Specimens	Food Poisoning Positive	Dysentery Positive	Enteric Positive
82	12	7	—

THROAT SWABS

Number of Specimens	Diphtheria Positive
1	—

NASAL SWABS

Number of Specimens	Diphtheria Positive
1	—

OTHER SWABS

Number of Specimens	Organisms Positive
4	—

URINE

Number of Specimens	Organisms Positive
1	—

PUS

Number of Specimens	Staphylococcus Aureus Positive
1	1

SPUTUM

Number of Specimens	Tuberculosis Positive
1	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Table of cases as notified after correction set out in age groups.

	At all ages	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths	Hospital	Home
		M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F			
Scarlet Fever ..	16	—	—	1	3 8	2 1	—	1	—	—	—	16
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	61	—	1 2	1 1	19 19	4 2	7	2	2 1	—	—	61
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis :	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Primary	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	4
and Influenza) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(includ. Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	321	2 6	41 38	57 52	63 56	1 1	—	—	1 3	—	1	320
Whooping Cough ..	38	2 1	3 3	8 5	4 11	—	—	—	1	—	—	38
Food Poisoning ..	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Tuberculosis :	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Pulmonary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 1	2 5	—	Not applicable	7	3
(b) Other ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	453	4 7	45 43	66 59	91 95	7 4	9 1	9 5	3 5	—	8	445

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of Persons Immunised for which records were received
during the year

Primary Immunisations							
Age at date of Primary Immunisation							
Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
152	76	14	6	15	144	64	471

Reinforcing Injections			
Age at date of Reinforcing Injection			
4	5—9	10—14	Total
25	350	135	510

These figures compared with 242 primary immunisations and 44 reinforcing doses the previous year. The increased number was due to an Immunising Campaign held in the Spring of 1955.

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths, 1955

No notifications were received during the year and no deaths occurred.

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and Mortality during 1955.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respira'y		Respiratory		Non-Respira'y	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
Under 1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
6—10 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35 ..	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
36—45 ..	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
46—55 ..	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
56—65 ..	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
66 and over	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total ..	3	7	—	—	10	1	—	2

The total number of new cases for 1955 was 10 pulmonary against a total of 10 cases pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary Tuberculosis for the year 1954.

13 deaths occurred during 1955 (11 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) as against three deaths (pulmonary) registered the previous year. 9 of the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred in a hospital classified as a hospital for the chronic sick and for this reason, although not residents of your district, were allocated to your district. The actual number of deaths of persons belonging to your district was 4, 2 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary.

Table showing new cases and Mortality during the past 10 years

Year	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respira'y		Respiratory		Non-Respira'y	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
1946 ..	1	3	1	—	1	—	1	—
1947 ..	2	2	1	—	1	1	—	1
1948 ..	4	3	2	1	—	1	—	—
1949 ..	4	2	—	—	2	2	—	1
1950 ..	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
1951 ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
1952 ..	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	—
1953 ..	5	6	—	3	4	1	—	—
1954 ..	7	3	1	—	2	1	—	—
1955 ..	3	7	—	—	10	1	—	2

Number of Cases on register

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Year	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1950	11	9	20	6	4	10
1951	11	10	21	6	5	11
1952	12	16	28	5	5	10
1953	18	21	39	4	8	12
1954	18	26	44	5	8	13
1955	23	33	56	6	6	12

Tuberculosis Mortality Rate : Respiratory 1955 — 0.6.
Non-Respiratory 1955 — 0.1.

Food Poisoning

1ST QUARTER	2ND QUARTER	3RD QUARTER	4TH QUARTER
—	—	1	2
Total — 3.			

Outbreaks due to Identified Agents

TOTAL OUTBREAKS

TOTAL CASES

OUTBREAKS DUE TO

(a) Chemical Poisons	—	(d) C.L. botulinum.	—
(b) Salmonella Organisms.	—	(e) Other bacteria.	—
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin).	—		

Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause

TOTAL OUTBREAKS

TOTAL CASES

Single Cases

AGENT IDENTIFIED	UNKNOWN CAUSE	TOTAL
1 Salmonella Heidelberg.	2 Staphyloccocal intoxication presumed.	3

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47
No action was taken under this section,

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL) IN YOUR AREA

WELFARE SERVICES

(a) **Residential Hostel Accommodation**—The County Council provide hostel accommodation for aged, infirm and handicapped persons, but the accommodation at present is limited. Application for assistance should be made to the County Medical Officer, or to the Assistant County Medical Officer.

(b) **Blind Persons**—a comprehensive service is provided which includes medical examinations, home visiting and teaching, assistance in obtaining suitable employment in workshops or at home, admission to homes for the blind and general social welfare. Any advice needed can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, Health Department, Shire Hall, Durham. Telephone No. Durham 4411 Extension 48.

(c) **Other Handicapped Persons**—certain welfare services are available for persons who are deaf and dumb, partially sighted, or substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity.

Home Nursing

The services of a home nurse are available anywhere in the county. Medical practitioners, the County Health Department or the Assistant County Medical Officer will advise as to the scope of the service provided.

Vaccination and Immunisation

- (a) Vaccination against smallpox may be obtained free of charge on application to any medical practitioner who has agreed to give service within the National Health Service Scheme. Facilities are also available for the vaccination of children at maternity and child welfare centres.
- (b) Immunisation against diphtheria may be carried out on application to maternity and child welfare centres or to any general practitioner operating under the National Health Service Act, free of charge.
- (c) B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis may in certain circumstances be carried out by chest physicians at the chest clinics.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service

Names and addresses of the midwives available may be obtained from the child welfare centres, medical practitioners or the County Medical Officer, Health Department, Shire Hall, Durham. Telephone No. Durham 4411, Extension 51.

Domestic Help

Domestic helps are provided by the County Council where necessary in cases of sickness, childbirth, infirmity or other household emergencies. A charge may be made for this service under certain circumstances according to income scale. Application should be made through the district health visitors or the County Medical Officer, Health Department, Shire Hall, Durham. Telephone No. Durham 4411, Extension 220.

Health Visitors

The health visitors visit persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice on the care of young children, to expectant or nursing mothers, and aged or ill persons, and to stress the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection. They provide the link between the home and the County Health Department and the name and address of the health visitor for any area can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, Shire Hall, Durham, or from the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Ambulance Service

The County Council provides a free ambulance service for persons in their area for whom ambulance transport is NECESSARY. In an emergency any responsible person may summon an ambulance by telephone by asking to be connected to the nearest ambulance control (no telephone number need be given). As a general rule, however, requests for the use of an ambulance should originate from hospitals, doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists or the police. A doctor in attendance may give a patient or a relative a note certifying in advance the need for ambulance transport and this certificate should be posted or taken to the nearest ambulance control.

Prevention of illness, Care and After-Care

Nursing equipment is provided for sick persons at the request of medical practitioners, district nurses, and hospital almoners. Invalid chairs are also available and extra nourishment or bedding can be supplied to patients suffering from tuberculosis. A charge is normally made for this service, but in certain circumstances, the charge may be reduced or remitted altogether.

Mental Health Services.

A comprehensive scheme is provided by the County Council. Details and assistance can be obtained on application to the County Medical Officer, Shire Hall, Durham, Telephone No. Durham 4411 Extension 237 or to the Duly Authorised Officer, Telephone No. Stockton 66911.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Arrangements exist for mothers, and children under 5 years, to attend Darlington Borough Clinics where this is more convenient. County clinics to serve certain areas of the Rural District are held as shown in the following table. Advice can also be obtained on

application to the County Medical Officer, 42 Old Elvet, Durham, Telephone No. Durham 4411, Extension 301.

Address of Centre	Sessions	
Sedgefield Surveyor's Office <i>Tel. Sedgefield 244</i>	Ante-natal Clinic	Alternate Tuesday mornings.
	Child Welfare Centre	Alternate Tuesday afternoons and alternate Thursday afternoons.
Shildon Friends Meeting House, Byerley Road.	Ante-natal Clinic	Alternate
	Child Welfare Centre	Wednesdays.
	Ultra Violet Ray Clinic	Monday and Friday afternoons weekly.
Chilton Red Cross Station	Ante-natal Clinic	Alternate Wednesday mornings.
	Child Welfare Centre	Alternate Wednesday afternoons.
Middleton-St.-George The Parochial Hall	Child Welfare Centre	Alternate Monday afternoons.
Newton Aycliffe Community Centre	Ante-natal Clinic	Alternate Thursday mornings.
	Child Welfare Centre	Thursday afternoons weekly

Maternity Homes and Hospitals

These are controlled by the Regional Hospital Board but applications for admission should be made to the medical officers at the maternity and child welfare centres shown in the previous table.

Accommodation for unmarried mothers is available at maternity homes provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and the Durham Diocesan Moral Welfare Association also maintain homes for unmarried mothers and their babies. Application for admission should be made to the medical officers at the child welfare centres.

Residential Nurseries

Residential nurseries are available for certain cases and information regarding these may be obtained from the Children's Officer, Crossgate Moor, Durham, Telephone No. Durham 3311.

Convalescent Home

E. F. Peile County Convalescent Home, Shotley Bridge (Tel. No. Shotley Bridge 27) is controlled by the County Council of Durham and admits nursing mothers and their babies and children under five years of age. Applications for admission should be made at the child welfare centres.

School Medical Service

Permanent school clinics are held as under and children may attend the most convenient :—

Billingham, Cowpen Lane	Medical Officer attends Tuesday and Friday.
Newton Aycliffe, County Junior Mixed School	Medical Officer attends Tuesday and Friday.
Shildon, Hallgarth House, Main Street	Medical Officer attends Tuesday and Friday.

Welfare Foods

National dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and vitamin tablets for mothers and babies are distributed from centres in the area as follows :—

Aycliffe Women's Institute	Wednesday mornings, 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon.
Heighington, 26, West Green	Daily when shop is open.
High Coniscliffe, Prospect House	Private house, any reasonable hour (not Sundays).
Hurworth Women's Institute	Alternate Tuesday afternoons, 1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.
Middleton-St.-George, NAAFI, R.A.F. Station.	Daily when open.
Middleton-St.-George, Parochial Hall	Alternate Monday afternoons, 1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.
Newton Aycliffe, Community Centre	Thursday afternoons, 1-30 p.m. to 3-30 p.m.
Piercebridge, 10, The Green	Private house, any reasonable hour (not Sundays).
Winston, Mrs. J. Ord, School House	Private house, any reasonable hour (not Sundays).

Additionally, distribution is made at the following three maternity and child welfare centres :—

Sedgefield, Surveyors Office	Alternate Tuesdays all day.
Shildon, Friends Meeting House, Byerley Road	Monday—all day. Alternate Wednesdays all day.
Chilton, Red Cross Station	Alternate Wednesdays all day.

Clinics and Welfare Centres held in the County Borough of Darlington which are attended by Mothers from the Rural District

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres—

Corporation Road Methodist Schoolroom	—Monday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Thompson Street Methodist Schoolroom, North Road	—Monday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Albert Road—Schoolhouse, Albert Road	—Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Eastbourne Nursery School, Belgrave Street	—Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wednesday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Coniscliffe Road Methodist Schoolroom, Coniscliffe Road	—Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Cockerton Methodist Schoolroom, The Green, Cockerton	—Friday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Haughton-le-Skerne Church Hall	—Friday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Ante-natal Clinics

Eastbourne Nursery School, Belgrave Street.	—Thursday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Albert Road—Schoolhouse, Albert Road	—Friday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Services administered by the Regional Hospital Board

Tuberculosis Service—

Clinics are held at Hundens Unit, Hundens Lane, Darlington as follows :—

Darlington Women and Girls	Friday 9-30 a.m.
Darlington Men and Boys	Thursday 9-30 a.m.
County Cases	Monday 9-30 a.m.
Male and Female Cases	Tuesday 2 p.m.

All cases by appointment

Special Treatment Service—Hundens Unit

MALE — Tuesday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday and Friday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

FEMALE — Wednesday and Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Infectious Diseases

There are 23 beds at Hundens Unit, Hundens Lane, Darlington.

General Hospital Accommodation

There are 307 beds at Darlington Memorial Hospital and Hundens Unit.

Chronic Sick Accommodation

There are 123 chronic sick beds at East Haven (Hospital Section), Yarm Road, Darlington, and 50 beds at Cambridge House (Hospital Section), Barnard Castle.

Maternity Accommodation

There are 53 beds at Greenbank Maternity Hospital.

Sanatoria

Nil.

SECTION B.

WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND GENERAL SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water

1. There is a piped water supply to the major part of the Rural District by mains owned by the following statutory undertakers :—

Tees Valley Water Board.
Durham County Water Board.
Darlington Corporation.
Darlington Rural District Council.

Area of distribution of each of the above will be seen in the appropriate table.

The parishes of Denton and Sockburn and the hamlet of Low Dinsdale as well as other isolated premises not connected to the public mains are supplied by springs and wells.

At Sadberge and in the parishes of Brafferton, Middleton-St.-George and Neasham where the water is supplied by the Tees Valley Water Board, the quantity is rather limited and mains extensions are not possible owing to the size of the mains and lack of pressure therein.

With regard to Denton, an approach has been made to the owners of this estate to take a bulk supply of water from one of the statutory undertakers as the quality of the water judged by bacteriological counts is unsatisfactory.

(a) **Bacteriological Examination of water supplied by the Durham County Water Board**

In the 1952, 1953 and 1954 annual reports reference was made to the unsatisfactory bacteriological quality of the water supplied by the Durham County Water Board. During the year under review 68 samples were taken in the Board's area and the results were as follows :—

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Newton Aycliffe	8	2	—	—
Aycliffe Trading Estate	33	4	1	1
Walworth	2	—	—	—
Heighington	5	1	—	—
Old Aycliffe	4	1	—	—
Mental Hospital	3	—	—	—
Houghton-le-Side	1	—	—	—
Redworth	1	—	—	—
Great Stainton	1	—	—	—
	<hr/> 58 <hr/>	<hr/> 8 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>	<hr/> 1 <hr/>

It will be seen from the above table that the position is satisfactory.

Two samples were taken at Newton Aycliffe for chemical analyses after complaints had been received regarding discolouration of the water. The Analyst's report on the first one indicated there was nothing in the result to account for the complaint as the sample represented a supply of good and wholesome water for human consumption. With regard to the second sample, microscopic examination showed a "large deposit from the half gallon consisting of earthy matter including flock, vegetable debris, some fungus growths and many micro organisms. The discolouration in this case was due to the presence of suspended matters" and it was suggested that to correct the defects frequent flushing of the mains should be carried out, although it was appreciated that under the existing conditions of water shortage this might not be practicable. The Analyst did, however, state there was nothing harmful although the water certainly appeared very unsightly.

Arising out of a request from the Medical Officer of the Borough of Ilford in connection with the investigation of dermatitis in the Ilford branch of one of the factories on the Trading Estate, arrangements were made for a chemical analysis to be taken.

The Analyst's observations indicated that the water was of good wholesome quality for human consumption.

Shortage of Water

During the year the general shortage of water throughout the country affected the Durham County Water Board and the Tees Valley Water Board and notices were issued restricting the use of water.

The position regarding the Durham County Water Board became much more serious when towards the autumn stand pipes had to be erected at various parts of their area and warning notices posted.

In April a complaint was received regarding the intermittent supply made by the Durham County Water Board to the Aycliffe Hospital, but later the situation improved.

There has been no further complaint.

(b) Bacteriological Examination of Water supplied by the Tees Valley Water Board

During the year satisfactory results (class 1) were obtained from eight samples of water taken from the area of the Tees Valley Water Board.

Piercebridge (1), High Coniscliffe (1), Low Coniscliffe (1), Hurworth Place (2), Middleton-St.-George (2) and Sadberge (1).

(c) Private Water Supplies

17 samples were taken from private water supplies with the following results :—

1. Brafferton Farm, Brafferton—1 Sample Class III
Brafferton Farm, Brafferton—3 Samples Class I.

These samples were taken in connection with the erection of a new dwelling house.

2. Denton Hall & Denton Village—2 Samples Class IV.

These were taken from an estate supply serving the small hamlet and indicate an unsatisfactory state of the supply.

Negotiations are proceeding as previously stated with the owners to try and obtain a bulk supply from the nearest statutory undertaker.

3. Burdon Hall, Great Burdon—1 Sample Class II.

1 Sample Class IV.

2 Samples Class III.

These samples were taken in connection with the proposed application for an improvement grant. This property will be served by the proposed extension to the Tees Valley Water Board main at Great Burdon which is referred to later in the report.

4. Ketton Hall & Newton Ketton—6 Samples Class IV.

1 Sample Class III.

These samples were taken from a well serving a single property for which application was to be made for an improvement grant. This property could be served by a proposed extension from the Durham County Water Board main from Preston Lodge at Great Stainton serving farms in this area.

The following is a list giving the degrees of hardness for each supply.

	DEGREE OF HARDNESS		
	AVERAGE HARDNESS IN PARTS PER MILLION		
	TOTAL	TEMPORARY	PERMANENT
Darlington Corporation	..128 parts per million.		
Durham County Water Board :			
Mainsforth	250	—	—
Moorland	50	—	—
Tees Valley Water Board :			
River Tees	105	65	40
Gravitation : Supply	55	40	15

No waters in the area are known to have plumbo-solvent action.

The proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public mains is as follows :—

PARISH	No. of Occupied Houses	Approx. Population	Water Authority Supplying	Direct to the house		By means of stand pipe	Total houses supplied	% of houses supplied	Pop. supplied direct	Pop. supplied by stand pipe
				Open	Meter					
Archdeacon Newton ..	19	60	Church Commissioners and D'ton Corporation	—	15	—	15	78.9%	47	—
Newton Aycliffe ..	2235	7,047	D.C.W.B.	2,234	1	—	2,235	100%	7,047	—
Great Aycliffe ..	246	775	D.C.W.B.	190	12	42	244	98.4%	635	132
Barmpton ..	27	85	D.R.D.C. T.V.W.B. and D'ton Corporation	11	7	—	18	66.6%	57	—
Bishoppton ..	97	306	T.V.W.B.	81	14	—	95	97.9%	298	—
Blackwell ..	152	480	Darlington Corporation	126	21	—	147	96.7%	462	—
Brafferton ..	48	151	D.R.D.C.	35	5	—	40	83.3%	126	—
Great Burdon ..	22	69	T.V.W.B.	17	3	—	20	90.9%	63	—
Coatham Mundeville ..	46	145	D.R.D.C. & D.C.W.B.	28	10	—	38	82.6%	119	—
High Coniscliffe ..	92	290	T.V.W.B.	71	14	—	85	92.4%	267	—
Low Coniscliffe ..	98	309	T.V.W.B.	86	10	—	96	97.9%	302	—
Denton ..	19	60	Raby Estates	16	—	—	16	84.2%	50	—
Low Dinsdale ..	155	488	T.V.W.B.	146	6	—	152	97.4%	479	—
East & West Newbiggen ..	9	28	T.V.W.B.	—	4	—	4	44.4%	13	—
Great Stainton ..	25	79	D.C.W.B.	12	9	—	21	84%	66	—
Heighington ..	362	1,141	D.C.W.B.	258	92	—	350	71.2%	1,103	—
Houghton le Side ..	23	72	D.C.W.B.	3	8	—	11	47.8%	35	—
Hurworth ..	521	1,643	T.V.W.B.	480	25	—	505	96.9%	1,588	—
Killerby ..	23	72	T.V.W.B.	18	3	—	21	91.3%	66	—
Little Stainton ..	16	50	T.V.W.B.	6	9	—	15	93.7%	47	—
*Middleton-St.-George ..	577	†2,824	T.V.W.B.	545	16	—	561	98.9%	2,774	—
Morton Palms ..	15	47	T.V.W.B.	5	7	—	12	80.0%	37	—
Neasham ..	102	322	T.V.W.B.	75	7	—	82	80.4%	258	—
Piercebridge ..	52	163	T.V.W.B.	43	4	—	47	90.4%	147	—
Sadberge ..	177	552	T.V.W.B.	159	15	—	174	98.3%	542	—
Sockburn ..	9	28	T.V.W.B.	6	—	—	6	66.6%	19	—
Summerhouse ..	29	91	T.V.W.B.	27	2	—	29	100%	91	—
Walworth ..	35	110	D.C.W.B. and Walworth Castle	17	13	—	30	85.7%	94	—
Whessoe ..	147	423	D.R.D.C. & D'ton Corp.	128	9	—	137	93.2%	392	—
	5,378	17,910		4,823	341	42	5,206	96.8%	17,224	132

* Includes 134 R.A.F. Married Quarters.

† Includes H.M. Forces stationed in district.

Improvements

In 1950 the adjacent local authority, Sedgefield Rural District Council commenced a scheme whereby a 4" main was to be laid from Travellers Rest to Stainton Hill House. This main was completed during the early part of the year.

This affords a means by which farm properties may be watered in the parishes of Brafferton and Great Stainton adjacent to the highway which forms the boundary.

Proposals

Water supplies to outlying areas

1. Great Stainton

During the latter part of the year the Council were advised that the Ministry were prepared to give a grant of £1,350 towards the cost of a scheme dealing with three outlying farms in their area. The estimated cost of the scheme was £2,032 and the Durham County Water Board were asked to proceed with it without delay.

2. Ketton Area

The Council were very concerned regarding the delay in receiving estimates from the Tees Valley Water Board of the cost of extending mains in this area. The approximate cost referred to in my last report was £4,032.

This area is so situated that it can best be supplied by the Durham County Water Board from the Sedgefield main referred to above under "Improvements". It was understood that the Durham County Water Board were going to provide the Tees Valley Water Board with a bulk supply and they in turn would lay mains and supply water in the area. The Tees Valley Water Board decided to offer no objection to making an order under Section 11, Water Act, 1945, requiring the Durham County Water Board to supply farms in the Ketton area.

The Council have asked the Durham County Water Board for their estimate of costs so that it can be forwarded without delay to the Ministry for grant purposes.

3. Great Burdon Extension

The Council received an estimate from the Tees Valley Water Board amounting to £4,524 details of which were passed on to the Ministry for grant purposes. Towards the end of the year the Ministry replied referring to the high cost of the scheme and the necessity for making further enquiries.

4. Neasham Road Extension

Darlington Corporation have not proceeded with their proposal to extend the water main in Neasham Road to the premises of Darlington Auction Mart Co. Ltd., and thence along Roundhill Road in the parish of Hurworth.

I understand there has been some difficulty in obtaining agreement regarding the apportionment of costs amongst the owners of the various properties that are to derive benefit from the scheme.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Aycliffe Sewage Disposal Works

These works dealt with a total of 426,774 gallons per day (dry weather flow) made up of 239,131 gallons from the New Town of Newton Aycliffe and 184,802 gallons from the Trading Estate and 21,841 from Aycliffe Village. These sewage works are modern, complete with three sedimentation tanks (total capacity 255,936 gallons), four rotary filters (total capacity 4,000 cub. yds.), four humus tanks (total capacity 101,300 gallons), sludge digestion tanks (total capacity 43,200 cub. ft.), and twelve sludge drying beds (1,175 sq. yds.)

There is pumping plant for dealing with the re-circulation of the effluent from the filters, drainage from the sludge beds and sludge from the humus tanks.

In connection with the effluent from the trading estate, the Sewage Works Manager has continued to visit pre-treatment works on various factories to avoid unsatisfactory effluent being discharged for treatment at the works.

During the year the Council attended demonstrations of equipment for the removal of sludge. Unfortunately weather conditions were bad at the time and although the Council appreciated the difficulties that the Sewage Works Manager had in the removal of sludge, no decision was made on the purchase of a tractor, trailer or mechanical lift for the purpose.

During the year, owing to exceptional weather conditions, approximately 657½ tons of sludge as against a total of 312 tons in 1954 were dried. The advantage of a really dry summer is obvious in these figures.

The Council continued to maintain the recently taken over pumping station in the new town and the one recently completed at Aycliffe Village. No serious complaints arose at either pumping station although for the greater part of the year the Aycliffe Village Pumping Station was only serving the new Council Houses in Durham Road, Aycliffe.

Middleton-St.-George Sewage Works

These works dealt with approximately 70,000 gallons per day (dry weather flow) from Middleton-St.-George in the parishes of Middleton-St.-George and Low Dinsdale. The works are entirely inadequate and are the subject of proposals by the Council's Consultant.

Hurworth & Hurworth Place Sewage Works

At both these places with populations of approximately 902 and 449 the works are inadequate.

Remaining Parishes

The Sewage Works at Great Stainton, Heighington, Redworth and Sadberge are modern. Redworth works have had improvements and are satisfactory.

Extensions are needed at Sadberge and Heighington.

The Sewage Works at High Coniscliffe, Low Coniscliffe, Great Burdon, Blackwell and Bishopton require complete renewal.

No sewage disposal works exist at Piercebridge, Summerhouse, Killerby, Merrybent, Walworth, Brafferton and Neasham.

Improvements

Aycliffe Village

In May work was commenced on the sewage scheme for the village. A tender for this work amounting to £11,591 6s. 0d. (exclusive of machinery) was accepted during 1954. The grant on this part of the scheme, which it is now expected will cost in the region of approximately £17,000 is £300 per annum for 30 years from the Ministry. It is expected that the County Council will make a contribution.

This scheme provides for a system of separate foul sewers in the village, the existing old drains and gullies being used for surface waters.

A problem arose regarding house connection to the new sewer. The drainage from the houses could not be connected because they carried both roof waters and sink drainage. The Council decided, on account of the high cost of the rock excavation and in order to encourage owners to convert earth closets, to pay half the cost of owners' work in connection with conversion.

Towards the end of the year the scheme was complete apart from the fixing of screens at the pumping stations. Delivery of these was expected early in the new year.

Hartlea Avenue Housing Site, Whessoe

For some considerable time serious nuisance has been caused at Hartlea Avenue by the absence of proper sewage disposal works to the existing system of sewerage. The Council decided to erect eight houses in this area and at the same time put in sewage works and land irrigation filter to deal with the drainage of the 18 houses.

A tender amounting to £854 18s. 0d. was accepted and the work was started in the early part of the year and completed before the end of the year.

Proposals

(a) Aycliffe Sewage Disposal Works

During the year under review a preliminary report was presented to the Council showing proposals for additional sludge beds and the alterations of the pipe work serving the humus tanks, together with a rough estimate of costs amounting to £60,500 for enlarging the work to serve the new town (10,000 population when complete) and the trading estate. The Council gave instructions for work to proceed as early as possible on the preparation of detailed plans for enlargement of the sludge drying area and the alteration to the pipe work serving the humus tanks. It was expected that details of these, together with the preliminary report, would be forwarded to the Ministry so that the former work could be done as early as possible.

(b) Middleton-St.-George

This scheme, the estimated cost of which was £63,000 was approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry for information regarding grant aid.

The Ministry in acknowledging receipt of the particulars, asked for the District Valuer's report on the cost of the ejector site.

This scheme which has been given a high priority by the Council provides for certain new sewers in the old village, for an ejector station and a new sewage works.

Bishopton & Great Burdon

These schemes which were estimated to cost £10,388 and £4,125 respectively were also approved by the Council and particulars forwarded to the Ministry. Here again the Ministry required particulars regarding the District Valuer's report on the cost of land for the pumping stations.

(c) Brafferton & High Coniscliffe

No further progress has been made with regard to these schemes which were approved by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry for information regarding grant aid. The estimated cost of these schemes is £5,650 and £4,853.

(d) Piercebridge

As previously stated in the last annual report preliminary details for a scheme for Piercebridge have been prepared and approved by the Council and submitted to the Ministry. The estimated cost of the scheme was £10,034 and the Council are prepared to give some priority when they have received information from the Ministry regarding grant aid.

(e) Whesoe

Details of this scheme together with costs were submitted to the Ministry in 1953. The Ministry advised the Council the scheme would be desirable under normal circumstances but the need was not so urgent as they could authorise it at present. The Council has given some priority for it and are awaiting details of grant aid.

(f) Low Coniscliffe & Merrybent

In my previous report I indicated that preliminary reports and estimates of costs had been submitted to the Ministry in connection with this scheme and here too they deferred consideration.

During the year the Council were approached by the Co-operative Wholesale Society asking for the completion of the scheme at the earliest date, in view of drainage troubles experienced in their business premises at Low Coniscliffe. They were prepared to offer a grant of £6,000 towards the cost. The Council decided that an amended scheme was to be prepared to deal with the village of Low Coniscliffe and the Co-operative Wholesale Society Nurseries and put forward without delay to the Ministry for information regarding grant aid.

It is expected that the detailed plans and particulars will be available next year.

Other Schemes

The position with regard to other schemes is as follows :—

1. Blackwell

Preliminary reports have been prepared for this scheme and it is expected will be brought before the Council for consideration early next year. This proposal is for the re-sewering of part of Blackwell into the Corporation sewer and will make the old sewage works redundant.

2. Sadberge

Preliminary reports have been prepared for enlarging the sewage works and to sewer the part of the village that at present is dealt with by a septic tank. The scheme is estimated to cost £3,750 and the Ministry acknowledged receipt of the preliminary report and have deferred consideration of it until some of the more urgent schemes can be dealt with.

3. Summerhouse & Killerby

Preliminary reports have been prepared for schemes to provide sewage works and certain new sewers for these villages at an estimated cost of £3,740 for Summerhouse and £4,160 for Killerby. It is expected that these will be submitted to the Council at an early date.

General

The only other parts of the Council's area requiring survey for sewerage and sewage disposal are Neasham and Coatham Mundeville.

Maintenance of Council Sewage Works

Most cesspools in the area have been emptied during the year with the use of a cesspool emptier hired from Darlington Corporation. Difficulty has been experienced regarding the hire of this machine and the Council have decided to purchase an 800 gallon cesspool emptier and gully cleaning machine at an estimated cost of £2,375.

The Council's workmen carry out maintenance, repair and cleansing of all sewerage and sewage disposal work in the district. Most of these are visited by sanitary labourers each week for inspection and minor maintenance work. A mobile sanitary squad is employed to visit the works for major maintenance purposes including emptying tanks, cleansing of gutters and in some cases the dragging of sewers. All the work is done by direct labour, the Council employing a foreman and 5 sanitary labourers. A sewage works manager and two labourers are attached to the large works at Aycliffe.

The cost of the service for the financial year 1955/56 was £10,095 which represented about a 1/8d. rate. The cost of the service for the previous year was £6,788 representing about 1/2½d. rate. This cost includes loan charges on works as well as workmens wages, materials, electricity charges, etc.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in recruiting labour for this work and during the year we were below establishment.

River and Streams (River Pollution Prevention).

During the year the Wear and Tees River Board who are responsible for the prevention of pollution of the rivers and streams in the area have continued to work in close co-operation with the department.

Copies of analyses of effluents from the Council's sewage works are sent to us periodically and where possible adjustments are made at the works so that the best possible effluents can be obtained.

We have been unable, however, to prevent the discharge of unsatisfactory effluents in certain cases due to defects and obsolete types of sewage works that require renewal. The Pollution Officer of the Wear and Tees River Board was kept advised as to the position regarding new schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal and of any improvements carried out to our existing works.

Public Scavenging

During the year refuse was collected from all houses approximately once a week. The only delays that occurred were due to public holidays or inclement weather when the men got a day or so behind with their work.

The following shows the area that each of the vehicles serves :—

1. Bedford Vehicle No. 1 (first registered 3rd November, 1946). Operated by driver and two men in the parishes of Bishopton, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Great Burdon, Barmpton, Heighington, Sadberge and part of Aycliffe Village. This vehicle was replaced by Bedford No. 5 towards the end of the year.
2. Bedford Vehicle No. 2 (first registered 1st September, 1948). Operated by driver and three men in the parishes of Low Coniscliffe, High Coniscliffe, Piccebridge, Summerhouse, Killerby, Denton, Walworth, Houghton-le-Side, Whessoe, Coatham Mundeville, Redworth and Brafferton.
3. Bedford Vehicle No. 3 (first registered 15th December, 1948). Operated by driver and two men in the parishes of Middleton-St.-George, Morton Palms, part of Low Dinsdale.
4. Bedford Vehicle No. 4 (first registered 22nd April, 1949). Operated by a driver and three men in the parishes of Hurworth, Neasham, part of Low Dinsdale, Sockburn and Blackwell.

5. On the 1st June a new fore and aft tipper (18 cub. yds.) was put into service to replace Vehicle No. 5, and towards the end of the year the labour gang was increased to 5 men and a driver to cope with the growth of the new town of Newton Aycliffe. Experiments were carried out during December using in addition Bedford Vehicle No. 1 to meet the needs of the new town and a further driver was employed.

Vehicles scavenging the northern part of the area are garaged at the Council's depot on the Aycliffe Trading Estate and vehicles Nos. 3 and 4 at a similar depot at Middleton-St.-George. The wet refuse from privy middens, etc., is collected separately and tipped on various farm lands in the district and used as a fertilizer, the dry refuse, including tins and glass, are deposited on the Council tips at Brafferton, Heighington and Piercebridge in the northern part of the area. The tip at Middleton-St.-George is well situated for dealing with the whole of the refuse collected by vehicles Nos. 3 and 4 and should last for a few more years and will result in the filling in of a dangerous pond.

The tip at Brafferton serves the new town, including the trading estate and northern parts of the area, leaving Heighington tip solely for the village of Heighington and the immediate adjoining area.

For some time difficulties are likely to be experienced in the collection of refuse in the northern part of the area due to the growth of the new town. Allowing for this and replacement of one of the older vehicles the Council ordered a new Fore and Aft Tipper (18 cub. yd). This vehicle is of a larger capacity and will reduce the number of runs between the villages and the tip.

The Council employ a working foreman to supervise both the scavenging and sanitary service with a van for transportation.

The cost of the scavenging service during the financial year ending 31st March, 1956 was £15,317 which represents a rate of 2/6½d. in the pound. The cost for the previous year was £10,981 representing a rate of 1/11d. in the pound.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council do not empty private cesspools in their area except in special circumstances where the cost is charged out to the persons concerned.

During the year we have been approached by private ratepayers regarding the emptying of their cesspools and this is a chargeable service which could be provided with advantage to our ratepayers. The new cesspool emptier will meet this need next year.

Public Conveniences

The Council own public conveniences at Middleton-one-Row, Heighington, Newton Aycliffe (Ward "A" Shopping Centre) and at Hurworth Place.

The new public convenience at Hurworth Place was completed in March.

Aycliffe and Middleton-St.-George

No further progress was made in connection with the erection of the public conveniences in these villages, although it is expected the matter will be raised again next year.

Closet Accommodation

During the year 7 ash closets and 4 privy middens were converted into water closets under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The owners of the properties concerned received a grant of £12 10s. 0d. for each conversion.

The Council paid £137 10s. 0d. in grants during the year, a reduction of £200 on the previous year when 23 ash closets and 4 privy middens were converted.

The total conversions carried out since the commencement of the voluntary scheme in 1937 number 152 ash closets and 172 privy middens at a total cost to the Council of £3,130 1s. 9d.

SANITARY INSPECTION

Summary of inspections, investigations and visits made during the year 1955.

Complaints investigated	43
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Public Health Acts :—

Houses	44
Other Premises	11
Animals improperly kept	9
Dirty and verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Drainage defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Conversions	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Scavenging	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Water Supplies (including samples)	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Offensive Trades	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Living Vans	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Total							311

Housing Acts :—

Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	273
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
House-let-in-lodgings	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Certificate of disrepair	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	95
Applications for re-housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Council house repairs and maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	..	195
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Total							628

Factories Acts :—

Factories with power	44
Factories without power	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total						45

Food & Drugs Acts

Registered Food Premises	..	..	..	..	2
Food Shops ..	..	..	..	..	26
Restaurant kitchens	..	..	..	..	1
Canteens ..	..	..	..	..	1
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	11
Ice Cream Vendors	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	6
Milk Distributors	..	..	..	..	3
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	52
Meat Inspection	335
Unsound Food	6
Knackers Yard	2
				Total ..	<hr/> 446 <hr/>

Shops Acts :—	26
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Infectious Diseases, etc.

Infectious diseases	16
Infectious disease contacts	125
Food Poisoning investigations	5
Dysentery investigations	61
Pathological specimens collected	189
Fumigations	1
Total ..	<hr/> 397 <hr/>

Rodent Control	37
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Building Byelaws

Foundations	42
Buildings in course of erection	79
Drains inspected and tested	284
Completed properties	..	..	..	..	96
				Total	501

Miscellaneous

Sundry visits ..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Interviews ..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Sewage Works	..	..	..	..	..	71
Sewerage ..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Refuse tips	..	..	..	..	..	17
Ineffective visits	..	..	..	..	..	22
Total						296

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED

	No. of Informal Notices Served	No. of Statutory Notices Served	Defects Remedied after notices	
Public Health Acts	14	—	7	
Housing Acts	11	15	129	
Factory Act ..	8	—	74	

HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS, 1925 AND 1932 ARTICLE 31.

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation .. 56
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 11
3. The number of **representations** made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders (a) — (b) 44
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works —
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices —
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made 9
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted, under sub-section (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. 6
8. The number of houses demolished 1

Building Byelaws

List of plans submitted and approved by the Council during the year :—

1. New houses, bungalows and shops	49
2. Alterations, additions and conversions to houses ..	76
3. Garages, Sheds, etc.	27
4. Agricultural Buildings	13
5. Drainage	4
6. Factories	10
7. Roads and Sewers	1
8. Others	17
Total ..	<u>197</u>

SECTION C.

HOUSING

Erection of New Houses

The total number of inhabited houses at the 31st December was 5,378 and the number of houses built during the year under review is shown in the attached table.

New Houses completed during year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total	Total 1954
(a) By Local Authority ..	42	—	42	19
(b) *By any other Housing Authority	439	—	439	566
(c) By private persons ..	1†	30	31	28
*Includes houses built at Newton Aycliffe. †Under Housing Act, 1952.				

Closing and Demolition of Houses

No. of houses demolished during year as a result of formal action	1
No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	3

Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949

	NO. OF SEPARATE HOUSES:
(a) Applications approved by Local Authority during the year	25
(b) Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	33
Amount paid in grants by the Council during the year	£1,808 5s. 0d.
Total amount paid in grants by the Council since inception of scheme	£3,038 2s. 6d.

Works of Re-conditioning and Repair

No. of houses made fit during the year under Housing Act or Public Health Acts :—

(a) As a result of informal action	11
(b) By owners as a result of statutory undertakings ..	2

Council Houses

The Council had 339 Council Houses up to the 31st December. During the year 42 houses were erected compared with 19 during 1954, making a total of 297 since 1944. All were of traditional brick.

Plans were approved for new Council Houses as follows :—
 13 Houses and 3 Bungalows at Hurworth.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Certificates of Disrepair

During the year two certificates were issued on instruction by the Council.

Houses purchased by the Council

The Council purchased nine houses during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

(a) Licensed Sites

There is still only one licensed site for six moveable dwellings in the area at Burtree Filling Station. The site has been run in a satisfactory manner, refuse being regularly removed from the site by the Council's service and there is a mains water supply available.

(b) Moveable Dwelling Licences

The number of licences issued in the area during the year was four.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and Byelaws made thereunder

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the district owned by private persons. During the year 1955, 332 meat inspection visits were made when 1,128 carcasses, with a total weight of approximately 120 tons were inspected.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed .. (if known).	432	3	7	655	211	—
Number inspected ..	376	3	7	559	183	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI :						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	1	—	—	2	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	82	—	1	29	9	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercul- osis and cysticerci ..	21.8	—	14.28	5.18	4.9	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	21	—	—	—	4	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	5.54	—	—	—	2.18	—
CYSTICERCOSIS :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Carcasses and portions thereof, and organs having a total weight 14 cwt. 5 stone 12 lbs. were found to be diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption and were disposed of accordingly.

Milk

There are 25 dairy farmers in the area retailing milk of whom 12 hold licences to produce and sell Tuberculin tested milk. There are 14 distributors of designated milks in the area.

Licences under the Special Designation Regulations were issued as follows :—

- 8 Pasteurised
- 8 Tuberculin tested
- 1 Sterilised

The following supplementary licences were issued to distributors from outside the district.

- 3 Tuberculin Tested
- 3 Pasteurised
- 2 Sterilised

Food Premises

104 visits were made to food premises excluding slaughterhouses, during the year. In view of the impending legislation i.e. Food and Drugs, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, improvements of the constructional character were not pressed for but we endeavoured to maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

Registration of Food Premises, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

There were no new applications for registration of premises for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. The total number of registered premises is 3.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the area. One application was received for registration of premises for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream. The premises were inspected, found to be suitable and registered. The total number of registered premises is now 31.

Ice Cream

All registered premises have installed recognised thermostatically controlled refrigerators and sell pre-packed ice cream only.

SECTION E.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 AND 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occu's. Pr'secuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authy.	108	12	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	35	32	—	—
Totals	163	45	3	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of Cases in which prosec'n' were instituted
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	3	3	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	*5	—	—	—
Total ..	8	8	—	3	—

*Means of Escape in Case of Fire (Certificates).

SECTION F.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act and Regulations, 1951

There are no manufacturers in the district but five registered premises where these materials are used.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

During the year the Council's sewers were test baited and treated as recommended by the Ministry.

9 local government properties, 3 dwelling houses and 3 business premises were found to be infested and successfully treated.

Fifteen complaints were received and dealt with.

Schools

No further information has been received from the County Council regarding water carriage arrangements at Neasham. Plans have been received in connection with the sewerage arrangements for the school at Denton.

BYELAWS IN FORCE IN DISTRICT

Building Byelaws

The Council's Building Byelaws were amended on the 7th April, 1952, to allow for the substitution of 7ft. 6 in. ceiling heights for 8 ft. The amendment in the Byelaws came into effect as and from 1st August, 1952.

New Streets	9th May, 1938.
Slaughter Houses	1st June, 1938.
Food Handling	8th May, 1950.

Petroleum (Regulation) Act, 1928—36

Four new and 66 renewals of application for licences to keep petroleum spirit were received during the year.

